

ROOTS, RELIGION & REPTILES

Art Exposition

Intrigued by a recent discovery of an old family photo-album, I challenged myself to allow my new "discovery" to be the source of inspiration for my first solo expo.

Beautiful photographs of my parents, my grandparents and other relatives, being the Roots of my Life, had left their imprints on my retina.

It was a great challenge to create works of Art that could reflect not only my ethnical background but also my art skills. So I chose to make use of an old art form, the painting of religious portraits on wooden panels, in a more contemporary way.

I wanted to create a modern" iconic art" which could embrace the same devotion and richness like a Greek orthodox religious icon.

Being brought up in a rather conservative Roman Catholic society, Religion with its elaborate amount of symbolism and rituals always played a great role in my childhood fantasy.

Once I got on my creative rollercoaster everything started to fall into place,.

I took the liberty of playing with shapes, colors and textures coming from my fervent passion for shells and lizards, as a replacement for so many religious symbols.

Hoping in this manner to be able, by means of visual images, to sympathize or to critersize a never-ending theme as Religion.

Reptiles like lizards and iguanas, the most common fauna around us, will also boldly showoff their undeniable beauty on my canvasses for they often tend to come to visit me when I'm at work in my studio.

ROOTS, RELIGION & REPTILES can be seen from Saturday May 14th until Friday June the 10th 2011 in the Westin Art Gallery.

Nigel Matthew

